



SAN ANTONIO

POLICE

Office of the Chief of Police, Police Media Services, 214 W. Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78207
Office Telephone (210) 207-7579, Fax (210) 207-7567, Police Dispatcher (210) 207-7484

Contact: Sandy Gutierrez

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Media Advisory

Funeral Arrangements for Officer Val Lopez

| <u>Visitation</u> | <u>Eulogy</u> | <u>Service</u> | <u>Interment</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, June 24 th 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Sunday, June 25 th 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Porter Loring Mortuary 1101 McCullough | Sunday, June 25 th 8:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church 350 Sutton Dr. | Monday, June 26 th 10:00 a.m. St. Paul's Church 350 Sutton Dr. | Following Service Mission Park South 1700 S.E. Military Dr. |

54-year-old Officer Valentine Lopez, Jr., died Wednesday, June 21st. He was a 30-year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department. During his tenure, Officer Lopez became an expert on gangs, particularly, the Mexican Mafia, and became instrumental in establishing communications between the gang community and law enforcement.

He began his career assigned to units such as Patrol and the Academy but his creativity in and knowledge of intelligence gathering landed him in covert units such as the Repeat Offenders Program (ROP) and Intelligence. His most current assignment was with the Narcotics Unit.

Officer Lopez received many accolades along the way but his most prestigious one was the Purple Heart he received for a 1977 incident.

On February 17, 1977, Officer Lopez answered a call for a man with a gun at a bar in the 1400 block of S. Gevers around 6:30 p.m. He was initially the cover officer but was closer so he made the scene first. According to witnesses, as soon as Officer Lopez entered the bar, the suspect began to shoot. Lopez was shot twice. One bullet struck his abdomen and the other hit his badge first before striking his chest.

The suspect was identified as 41-year-old Jack Barber. He was charged and convicted with Attempt to Commit Capital Murder. He was sentenced to life in prison and has since died.

Officer Lopez leaves behind a wife and two daughters.

For Immediate Release